Protest by forest dwellers

2005. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the thousands of tribals and other forest dwellers who gathered in Hoshangabad district in Madhya Pradesh, to protest against their threatened displacement from the Satpura National Park, Bori Wildlife Sanctuary and Panchmarhi Wildlife Sanctuary;

(b) if so, whether Government have caused a probe into their grievances; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken to protect their legitimate forest rights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The State has informed that a rally was organized on 5th February, 2006 at Pipariya in the Hoshangabad district of Madhya Pradesh, in which people from Satpura National Park, Bori, Panchmarhi Sanctuaries and outside participated. This was reportedly against relocation, collection of minor forest produce from protected areas and the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(b) This Ministry has not received any report from the State regarding a probe in the matter.

(c) Provisions exist in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 for safeguarding the rights of people residing in protected areas till final settlement of such areas under the said Act.

Role of soft drink bottling plants in groundwater pollution

2006. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Pollution Control Board has surveyed diverse soft drink bottling plants for their role in groundwater pollution or other types of pollution;

(b) if so, what were the findings of CPCB in 2005-06; and

(c) what steps does the CPCB take to prevent groundwater pollution through chemical seepages, etc.?